

KAISER DID LITTLE
FOR HIS "ROLAND"Leoncavallo Declares Most of
the Opera Was His
Own Work.

EMPEROR WAS KIND.

Italian Composer, Whose Life Is
Insured for \$100,000, Now
Ready to See New York.

Ruggiero Leoncavallo, with policies for \$100,000 insurance on his life, is preparing to dare the perils of New York. The Maestro hasn't ventured out of the Hotel Astor yet. He is getting his "hand-legs" after landing from the North-German Lloyd liner Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse. There is a little sentiment about the selection of the ship on which he made his first visit across seas: Kaiser Wilhelm collaborated with Leoncavallo on his latest opera.

That is Wilhelm ordered it and Leoncavallo did the work. In his spacious suite on the fifth floor of the Astor, the Maestro told an Evening World reporter about the famous collaboration. His personal manager, Rudolph Aronson, acted as interpreter. The Maestro speaks no English.

The Maestro is a very short, very broad and massive man. His head is leonine with a bristling mass of wavy black hair—the head of a genius. At the time he took "Roland Berlin" to Germany for rehearsal the cable reports had him gray-haired with anxiety. His hair is jet black. His twinkling eyes are buried in rolls of putty fat. His big black mustache points upward. He is a genial face, otherwise he might be easily taken for a Mulberry street banker.

His Eloquent Hands. His tremendous head is made more tremendous by the big fat neck, at the bottom of which is the widest and lowest of turn down collars. His necktie is bound by a winding, gold scarf-holder. His shoulders are gigantic and powerful, his chest great, but his legs are short. His hands are fat, but as he speaks the expression leaps into them and they become the hands of a musician, the thumb being particularly long and eloquent.

"It was during a performance of my opera 'I Medici' in Berlin," he said, "that the German Emperor was so struck by the music that he exclaimed: 'There is the man who will commission me to write me an opera!' He went to me and commissioned me to make an opera from an historical incident that he had selected. It was the story of the Roland of Berlin dealing with the conflict of the Mayor of Berlin and the Margraves of the ruling houses of the east. The stage is occupied by steel-clad warriors. These suggestions and details were the extent of the Emperor's collaboration. I wrote the music, scenario and libretto.

"As to the stories that Kaiser Wilhelm was an exacting taskmaster, I have to laugh. He approved of each act of the work I submitted and gave the production his royal patronage. He spent money amounting to \$10,000 on the opening performance. Our relations were entirely pleasant and there is nothing which could have given rise to the stories that he made trouble."

"It was reported at the time that Mascagni and you were to have fought over his saying Wilhelm chose him first."

"No, no. We are good friends. The story is not correct."

Maestro Leoncavallo's voice rumbled out as though from a very deep cellar. He hands worked like the sweep of a windmill. He let go out the fat cigar he had been smoking.

They Admire Roosevelt. "We always ask how you like New York," was the next lead.

"I have not seen enough yet, but

COMPOSER WHO
WROTE OPERA
WITH KAISER.

what I have—ah, it is great! The high buildings—magnificent! I look forward with interest to my first trip around New York. In Milan, where I come from, we much admire your President Roosevelt, and to him I have dedicated my new march, 'Viva l'America.' It is with astonishment that I learn that you have more Italians in New York than there are in Milan. I have been on a charming trip over, and had I known it was so simple and pleasant I would have brought Signora Leoncavallo.

During his travels the Maestro's life is covered by insurance policies amounting to \$100,000 taken in various American companies for the period covered by the tour. These are so indemnity Mr. Aronson in case of accident.

Leoncavallo had a souvenir photograph taken about the Kaiser Wilhelm and signed by Karl Mack, Yvette Guilbert, Vigny and other musical celebrities. When speaking about the Verdi statue unveiling, at which he is to represent the Italian Government next week, he was asked how Verdi ranked in his opinion.

"One of Italy's greatest composers. Rossini first, Verdi next."

The composer of "Pagliacci," "Zaza," "Medici," "Bohème," "Chatterton" and "Roland" begins his concert tour at Carnegie Hall Monday evening, and will tour under the management of Cortlandt Kramer. He will take his orchestra from La Scala, Milan, and will produce his opera "The Youth of Pizarro."

ANARCHIST IN PALACE. MILAN, Oct. 2.—Pretending to be an anarchist, an anarchist named Duto gained admission to the palace of King Victor Emmanuel at Raconig, gave a performance with the biograph, and, when leaving, shook hands with the King. The police are terribly shocked by the affair, as it was through them the anarchist gained admission to the palace.

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